

Two uncommon immigrants to Westmoreland (VC 69)

I had the good fortune to attract two rarities to my garden m.v. light here in Grange-over-Sands (O.S. grid reference SD 401768) recently. On the night on 7/8 June 2000, a male Ni Moth *Trichoplusia ni* (Hb.) was taken. I nearly failed to see it as, resting on the inside wall of the trap it looked like a small, rather worn Silver Y *Autographa gamma* (L.). Working on the principal that anything which looks odd should be boxed and examined more closely indoors, I confirmed that the insect was indeed *T. ni*. So far as I know this is only the third specimen to be recorded in Westmoreland (VC 69). Bernard Skinner took an example at light at Witherslack on 7 July 1968 (*Ent. Rec.* **81**: 110). The second record is from South Walney Nature Reserve, where one was taken in the light trap there by the then-warden, W. Makin, on 17 June 1996.

The second rarity to my trap was a female Bedstraw Hawk-moth *Hyles gallii* (Rott.), on 17/18 July 2000. The moth was a little tattered, at least in part owing to the fact that she was emulating the habits of the May bugs *Melolontha* spp. and had become partly stuck in the down spout of the rain funnel in the trap. *H. gallii* has been much more frequently recorded than *T. ni* in this district. The hawk-moth is more usually found in the larval stage and in general on the coastal sandhills of the district.— NEVILLE L. BIRKETT, Beardwood, Carter Road, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 7AG.

Crescent Dart *Agrotis trux* ssp. *lunigera* Steph. (Lep.: Noctuidae) in Staffordshire

A female Crescent Dart *Agrotis trux lunigera* Stephens was caught in a moth trap at Norton near Stourbridge, Staffordshire (VC 39) by Mr D. N. Friday on 24 July 2000. This constitutes only the second record for the Vice-county; the first being at Himley Hall on 20 July 1981. Both these records are extraordinary given the usually coastal distribution of the species. They also indicate that Crescent Darts may be more migratory than is generally appreciated. The latter record occurred at a time when Humming-bird Hawk-moths *Macroglossum stellatarum* L. were also being widely reported.— DAVID EMLEY, School of Earth Sciences and Geography, Keele University, Keele, Staffordshire, ST5 5BG (E-mail: d.w.emley@esci.keele.ac.uk).

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Fisher's Estuarine Moth *Gortyna borelii lunata* Freyer

As a part of my continuing research into the biology and ecology of Fisher's Estuarine Moth *Gortyna borelii lunata* Freyer (see *antea*: 93), I am currently trying to find out if *G. borelii* feeds as an adult. In spite of many hours in the field observing the moths I have not observed them feeding and it does not seem as if anybody else has either. I would be very keen to hear from anyone who has – either in the field or in captive stock.— ZOE RINGWOOD, Writtle College, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3RR. (E-mail: zoe@orbweb.freeseve.co.uk)